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4-17-2006

# Change in major requirements for Sociology

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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## SUNY BROCKPORT

College Senate  
State University of New York College at Brockport  
350 New Campus Drive  
Brockport, NY 14420-2925  
(585) 395-2586 (Fax) 395-2246

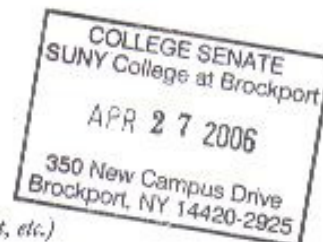
Resolution # **24**  
**2005-2006**

## COLLEGE SENATE

TO: Dr. John R. Halstead, College President

FROM: The College Senate passed: April 17, 2006

RE: ☒ I. Formal Resolution (*Act of Determination*)  
II. Recommendation (*Urging the Fitness of*)  
III. Other, For Your Information (*Notice, Request, Report, etc.*)



SUBJ: ***Sociology: Change in Major Requirements*** #35 05-06 UC

Signed: [Signature]  
(Dr. Mark Noll, 2005-2006 College Senate President)

Date: 4/20/06

Please fill out the bottom portion and return document to the College Senate Office.

TO: The College Senate

FROM: College President

RE: ☒ I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle)

a. Accepted. Resolution Effective Date: 4/25/06

b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III. Response to Recommendation or Other/FYI

a. Received and acknowledged \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

b. Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRIBUTED BY PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO: President's Cabinet

DISTRIBUTE ALSO TO: Originator, Academic Advisement, Registrar (as appropriate)

Signed: [Signature]  
(Dr. John R. Halstead, College President, SUNY College at Brockport)

Date: 4-25-06

**COLLEGE SENATE OFFICE  
RESOLUTION PROPOSAL COVER  
PAGE**

<b>Routing Number</b>	35 05-06 UC
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ROUTING NUMBER TO BE ASSIGNED BY SENATE OFFICE

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: FEBRUARY 23**

Proposals received after the deadline may not be reviewed until next semester.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Submit proposals individually rather than packets with multiple documents.
- Complete this cover page for each proposal (available online at [www.brockport.edu/collegesenate](http://www.brockport.edu/collegesenate))
- Prepare proposal in Word format using committee guidelines (available online)
- Submit proposal electronically with this cover page to [senate@brockport.edu](mailto:senate@brockport.edu), [facprez@brockport.edu](mailto:facprez@brockport.edu)
- All updates must be resubmitted to the Senate office with an updated cover page, use routing number
- Questions? Call the Senate office at 395-2586 or the appropriate committee chairperson.

**1. PROPOSAL TITLE:**

Please be somewhat descriptive, for example, *Graduate Probation/Dismissal Proposal* rather than *Graduate Proposal*.

**Change in major requirements for Sociology**

**2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:**

The major would increase from 30 credits to 33 credits by including a requirement that one of the following courses to be taken at SUNY Brockport (SOC 210 – Social Problems, SOC 220 – Social Psychology, or SOC 230 Social Institutions). In addition, we would institute a minimum of a C in the three core courses: SOC 200 Social Statistics; SOC 300 Social Theory; and SOC 310 Research Methods.

**3. SUBMISSION & REVISION DATES:** PLEASE DATE ALL UPDATED DOCUMENTS

First Submission	Updated on	Updated on	Updated on
2/20/06	2/27/06	3/12/06	

**4. SUBMITTED BY: (contact person)**

Name	Department	Phone	Email
Joan Z. Spade	Sociology	395-5661	jspade@brockport.edu

**5. COMMITTEES TO COPY: (Senate office use only)**

Standing Committee	Forwarded To	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Planning & Policies <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty & Professional Staff Policies <input type="checkbox"/> General Education & Curriculum Policies <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Curriculum & Policies <input type="checkbox"/> Student Policies <b>xx Undergraduate Curriculum &amp; Policies</b>	Committee Chair	2/23, 2/27, 3/12
	Executive Committee	3/27/06
	Senate Floor	4/3/06, vote 4/17/06
	College President	
	Other	

\*(ROUTING NUMBER WILL BE A CHRONOLOGICAL NUMBER SEQUENCE FOLLOWED BY COMMITTEE INITIALS)

REVISED 2/27/06  
Change in Major Requirement for Sociology  
Submitted to College Senate 2/13/06

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM CHANGES IN CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED

COURSES	OLD PROGRAM	NEW PROGRAM
SOC100 Introduction to Sociology	3	3
SOC 210, 220, OR 230 (one of three courses must be taken at SUNY Brockport. In the highly unlikely situation that a student has taken all three courses prior to transferring to Brockport [Soc 230 is a unique course that is not offered by most other colleges], the student must take an exam testing competencies covered in these classes. If they do not pass this test, they must then take one of these three courses over again. )		3
SOC 200 Social Statistics*	3	3
SOC 300 Sociological Theory	3	3
SOC 310 Research Methods	3	3
Elective Credits	18	18
TOTAL CREDITS	30	33

\* If another course is substituted for SOC 200, the major must take 21 elective credits to graduate

The department also proposes the following change in requirements:

Majors must earn a C or higher in the three core courses SOC 200, SOC 300, and SOC 310 to graduate.

### **3. RATIONALE FOR CHANGES**

#### **Rationale for requiring one of three 200-level courses to be taken at SUNY Brockport**

Requiring majors to take one of three 200-level courses at SUNY Brockport will ensure that students transferring to Brockport will have an introduction to both reading/writing sociological material and interpreting social data. We have introduced two modules in all Introduction to Sociology courses and these three 200-level courses. One module focuses on reading and interpreting data in tabular form. Students learn to develop hypotheses and explain social relationships using data such as that gathered in the U.S. Census. The second module teaches students to identify, read, and interpret Sociology journal articles. These modules were introduced to strengthen students' concrete skills and prepare them to take social statistics, research methods, and upper-level electives, allowing the department to offer more rigorous courses that will better prepare our students for their work careers. These changes were made in response to our Self Study (conducted in 2004-05) and the current philosophy of sequencing in the discipline, documented in *Liberal Learning and the Sociology Major*, reflecting the need to build more structure into the sociology curriculum.

However, we find that transfer students fall behind students who have taken the Introduction to Sociology course at SUNY Brockport because they often take Introduction to Sociology elsewhere, thus they are not exposed to these modules and the background information for reading/writing sociological material and interpreting social data. This change requiring that they take one 200-level class at Brockport will give them the same background information that other majors have access to in their introductory courses.

#### **Rationale for requiring C or higher in three core courses**

The requirement of a C in SOC 200 (Social Statistics), SOC 300 (Sociological Theory) and SOC 310 (Research Methods) will ensure that all of our graduates will gain competency in analyzing ideas and data. A recent survey of Sociology graduates conducted by the American Sociological Association finds that the skills obtained in these courses – ability to analyze and evaluate ideas and data – are the most useful skills they received in their undergraduate years as a sociology major. The Department of Sociology agrees and believes that students who have a strong foundation in these three courses will be more successful in their careers after graduation. Students transferring in any one of these core courses or taking an equivalent to Soc 200, must have a C or higher grade.

**Request to add one lab credit to Social Statistics has been dropped because we intend to incorporate lab material into a future curriculum revision.**

### **5. STAFFING ISSUES**

The Sociology Department is currently stretched thin, but we believe that these changes will not put any more pressure on the department than is already there. We will offer one or two more 200-level classes each year (note these three classes that will be offered regularly are also General Education “S” classes).

## 7. RESOURCES

No additional resources will be required to implement these changes. Although the department needs additional staff, these changes will require the addition of one course (Soc 230 Social Institutions) that must be taught on a regular basis. While these changes will further challenge our resources, we believe the resultant improvement in quality and preparation of students are worth the sacrifices to be made.

## 8. SUPPORT FROM COOPERATION AGENCIES OR UNITS

These changes could impact double majors. We have letters of support for this proposal from the departments of Criminal Justice, Social Work, and Delta College indicating that these changes should not negatively impact current double major agreements. Instead, these letters indicate that the changes are welcomed because they make the Sociology major more rigorous and will strengthen the skills of double majors.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Sociology Department's Curriculum Revision</b>
<b>From</b>	Jose Malieka <jmalieka@brockport.edu>
<b>Date</b>	Friday, March 10, 2006 2:10 pm
<b>To</b>	senate@brockport.edu, jspade@brockport.edu

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Greetings:

The purpose of this e-mail is to let the College Senate know that I fully support the curriculum revision plan submitted by the Sociology Department. On behalf of the Dean I completed the review of the proposal, prior to the department submitting it to the Senate.

Jose Malieka  
Associate Dean  
School of Letters and Sciences